

Weekly Calendar

AA: Fridays
8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

NA:
Tuesdays and Thursdays
7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

NAR-ANON Family Group:
Thursdays
7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

SAA For Men:
Sundays, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Daily Bread Meal for
Community:
Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Thursdays 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Adult Clothing Giveaway:
First Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Third Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Food Pantry: Columbia County
3rd Friday of each month
9 a.m. to 12 noon

Fresh Express:
Every Thursday
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Upcoming Events

7th Annual Palooza:
Saturday, August 26,
Bloomsburg Town Park,
11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Dining to Donate, Applebee's:
Monday, October 9, all day.
Fliers available at AGAPE.

MISSION MALLS:
November 4—Central
Susquehanna Community
Foundation, Berwick and
December—St. John's Lutheran
Church, Mifflinville—Trinity
Lutheran Church, Danville

SAVE THE DATE:
Sunday, November 26,
Advent Celebration

Zechariah 4:10:

“Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin.”



SMALL BEGINNINGS



Small Beginnings is a children's ministry whose goal is to provide experiences that encourage kids to grow in their love and understanding of God. Currently, their main program is an after school program called *Prime Time* but eventually, plans include serving children in Haiti and wherever else God leads!

Prime Time meets two afternoons a week and serves children, ages 5 thru 12, who reside in the trailer courts surrounding Ber-Vaughn Park in Berwick. The name *Prime Time* serves as a reminder of the two main reasons the program was created. First,

the after school hours are the primary time of day elementary students tend to be unsupervised and get into trouble. Furthermore, research has shown that nearly half of all Americans that accept Jesus as their Savior do so before the age of 13.

Prime Time provides a safe, welcoming environment for children and offers them an opportunity to learn about Jesus. It also offers help with homework and school projects and provides activities that encourage success at school and home by improving skills, building confidence, and creating positive attitudes. As a way of demonstrating respect for everyone and everything, the children remove their shoes upon entering the building. A wide variety of shoes greets visitors to the building and serves as a visual of the diversity of the group. The kids also participate in Role Modeling where a designated speaker visits the group to discuss a certain topic, introduce a hobby, or teach a work related skill. Another important component of *Prime Time* is *Prime Time Creations* – theme based greeting cards the kids create to sell. Running their own business gives children a sense of purpose, teaches them the value of work ethic, and gives them the satisfaction of performing a job from start to finish.

Prime Time meets in the Briar Creek Borough Municipal Building. Program hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 5:30 (during the school year) and 1:00 to 3:00 during the summer. All volunteers 18 years and older are required to provide three child abuse clearances before serving. For more information contact program founder and director, Kim Sullivan smallbeginnings@agape-pa.org or call 570-814-3110.

DisasterRESPONSE

Tina Perkins is our new database associate who is helping with our website: [www/agape-pa.org](http://www.agape-pa.org). She has updated several pages and has added a program that we have not previously advertised very much. It is: DisasterRESPONSE.

We decided to give disaster preparedness information to the community to help prepare for emergencies such as flooding. Much can be learned from these little tidbits that we do not think about until the emergency is here. Then we wonder what to do. We hope this helps our community to be alert and prepared.

AGAPE OUTREACH

Extended Services was invited by Hand to Hand Family Resource Center to share information about AGAPE at an event called C.A.M.P.S.

(construction, art, music, play, sensory) at Ber-Vaughn Pool in Berwick



Joy Dent at the Healthy Tailgate Event at Clover Hills in Berwick on July 11, 2017.

on July 7. We were asked to share with the families what we offer and how we can help where needed. We also helped them fill out paperwork when they needed help. There were five different tents set up with different activities which families could easily do at home. Hand to Hand Family Resource Center is a soon-to-be non-profit established to share information with families with special needs children, and point them to agencies who can help them. While there, we were invited to attend a Healthy Tailgate Event at Clover Hills Estates in Berwick on July 11, 2017. This is a low-income housing development located off

Route 93 in Berwick. This event and others in the Columbia-Montour County area are intended to let families know what programs and assistance are offered to them.

Despite the hot weather and a few sprinkles, both events were a success. We shared AGAPE services with many families. It was wonderful to hear that families have already visited AGAPE and were able to utilize our services.



Do you like to shop on Amazon? If so, with the click of a button you can continue to buy all of your favorite items and now support your local community. To sign up, go to <http://smile.amazon.com> and when prompted to select a charity enter **AGAPE Love From Above To Our Community (Location: Bloomsburg, PA)**. Now, every time you shop at Amazon a percentage of your purchase will be donated to AGAPE. And, the great thing is you can still use your current Amazon account – no need to setup a new username and/or password.



A new Fresh Express vegetable was introduced to us: **Purple cauliflower**. The purple is not due to painting, or dyeing but oxidation. It is natural and has become popular over the last couple of years. The taste does confirm it is cauliflower. Always something new at Fresh Express. Try it, you'll like it.

FEEDING THE THOUSANDS

(April — June 2017)

We appreciate the following sponsors who helped with our weekly noon and evening meals during the last quarter:

- ◆ ACE Hearing Centers
- ◆ Appleman Financial
- ◆ The Auction Gallery
- ◆ Bloomsburg Carpet
- ◆ Century 21 Covered Bridges Realty, Inc.
(Susan Barchik & Dorothy Rhone)
- ◆ Gordner-Coombs Insurance, Inc.
- ◆ Hamilton Dental Care
- ◆ Harrell Automatic Sprinkler Compan Inc.
- ◆ Marr Development, Inc.
- ◆ Nathan Snavelly Nationwide Insurance
- ◆ Rohrbach's Farm Market
- ◆ USG

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear AGAPE Friends,

I write this month about DailyBREAD. See the back of this newsletter for figures on an exciting and generous program made possible by financial donations of individuals, organizations, churches and Businesses. In-kind donations have been received from Central Pennsylvania Food Bank (CPFEB), local farmers and individual gardeners. We are grateful our community answers God's call to feed the hungry.

DailyBREAD's initial assistance was a weekly meal on Thursdays 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Our kitchen was furnished by a variety of entities: landlords refurbishing rentals, Bloomsburg High School, Bloomsburg University, Columbia County Housing Authority remodeling Trinity Reformed Church of Christ giving us the church kitchen, Precision Metals covering our counters with stainless steel, churches donating dishes, pots and pans etc. We began serving about 35 and have grown to over 150 per week and added a meal on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 -7:00 p.m. Meals are sponsored by local businesses and corporations and are listed on our website www.agape-pa.org under supporters, Feeding the Thousands.

We became the storage site for the Columbia County Food Pantry (CCFP) in July 2009. The county turned over the administration of its six sites (Bloomsburg, Berwick, Benton, Catawissa, Orangeville, Wilburton) to AGAPE in July of 2015. Then CPFEB asked if we would help with a new program, "Fresh Express," to provide perishable items such as fresh vegetables and fruits. Since September 2016 we have had Fresh Express at AGAPE every Thursday 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We started with about 67 guests, now have over 1700 registered and serve an average of 450 each week. Last year LCBC Church donated a large walk-in refrigerator that helps to preserve the abundance of perishable food we receive through Fresh Express.

We became interested in low-income kids not having food for the weekend. Knowing that Berwick, Bloomsburg, Danville and Southern Columbia School Districts had successful backpack food programs, we investigated the need elsewhere and found needs at Bloomsburg Head Start, Columbia County Christian, Benton and Millville (K-2) School Districts. About 250 students would benefit. We began a pilot distribution in October of 2015 to those schools. It was so successful that in the fall of 2016 we added all of Millville and Benton Schools and Columbia-Sullivan County Head Start. Central Columbia Elementary School and Columbia-Montour Vocational and Technical School joined us in spring of 2017. We anticipate expanding services at Central Columbia and VOTECH for a total of 900 students.

We offer Emergency Food Boxes for those who find themselves without food when local food cupboards, the food pantry or Fresh Express are unavailable. The box will feed about four people for four days.

Major food donors include Bloomsburg Giant, Kirk's Auction Gallery and the Millville Community, Route #11 Bloomsburg Sheetz, Rohrbach's, SNG Farms, Stahl Farms and Van Houten Farms.

GOD HAS TRULY BLESSED THE FOOD FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

In His Service,

Eileen

Thanks from our Clients

Dear AGAPE,

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the necessities to furnish my apartment for my children and myself. I appreciate the time you spent putting together the twin beds (with new mattresses), a full-size bed with a headboard, washer and dryer, microwave, beautiful table with chairs, and dishes, pots and pans and silverware. The sheer volume of the things I needed that you supplied selflessly is quite staggering. The quality of the donations also far exceeded my expectations.

You were generous in time spent after hours, while AGAPE was closed so that I could pick up the large volume of donations.

In my continuing recovery from addiction I am learning to ask for help when I need it. Experiencing firsthand God's work through people like you, it has given me the gifts of hope, gratitude and humility. I have been grieving years of addiction and the wreckage that comes with it. As I was driving away with your very generous donation, my heart felt like it swelled up with joy and gratitude and renewed faith in the kindness and love in people.

God bless you for your hard work. I will do my best to pay it forward, always remembering the help I received from you.



**DONATIONS TO PALOOZA
SILENT AUCTION ARE
NEEDED. PLEASE DROP OFF
AT AGAPE OR CALL TO MAKE
OTHER ARRANGEMENTS.**

**(No alcohol, tobacco or
firearms please.)**

AGAPE

Love From Above To Our Community

19 East 7th Street
Bloomsburg, PA 17815
570-317-2210
www.agapelovefromabove.org



Donate On-Line using
PayPal on our Website:
www.agapelovefromabove.org

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bloomsburg,
PA 17815
Permit No. 19



678,561

POUNDS OF FOOD
DISTRIBUTED



\$943,550.63

Value of Food
Distributed

11,973

FRESH EXPRESS
CLIENTS SERVED



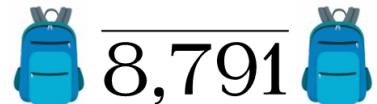
29,396

No. OF HOUSEHOLDS
IMPACTED



4,307

DAILYBREAD
MEALS SERVED



8,791

SCHOOL BACKPACKS
DISTRIBUTED

AGAPE

Love From Above To Our Community

CELEBRATES
THE ADVENT OF JESUS CHRIST
WITH MUSIC



NOVEMBER 26, 2017

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Front Desk Assistant

Monday and Friday full time:
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday and Friday part time:
9 a.m. to 12 noon
12 noon to 4:00 p.m.
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Thursday part time:
10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

School Children's Food Backpack Packers:

Starting late August/Early
September, monthly packing.

If interested, come to a
meeting at AGAPE on
Wednesday, August 23, at
1 p.m. for information and
sign up. For more infor-
mation on either opportunity,
you may call AGAPE at
570-317-2210.